

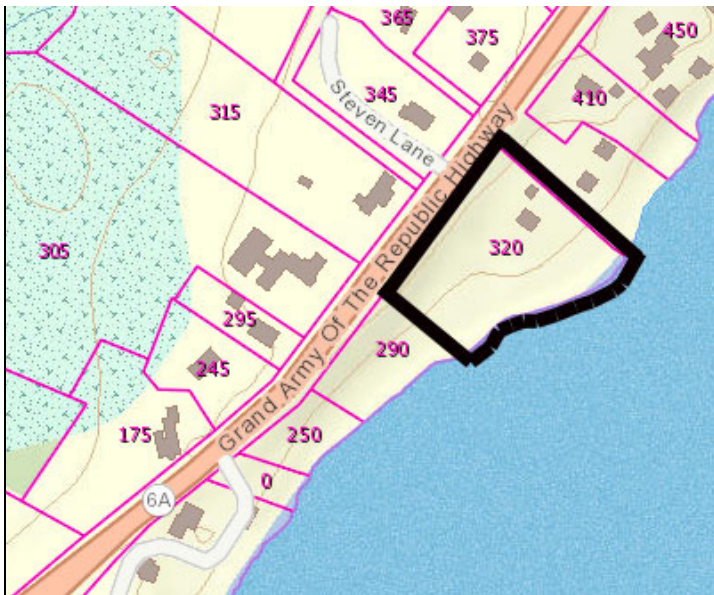
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: May 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

20-110

ORLEANS

EAS.621

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Address: 320 State Highway

Historic Name: Abbott H. & Lillie F. Walker Cottage

Uses: Present: single-family condominium

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1926-31

Source: tax records

Style/Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: small barn or boathouse

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none

Condition: poor

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.2 acres

Setting: The subject property is located on the east side of State Highway, at a substantially lower grade than the roadway. It has about 300 feet of frontage on Town Cove, an inlet from the Atlantic Ocean. Single family dwellings are on the adjoining lot to the northeast and across the highway. Undeveloped land lies to the southwest and beyond that is the Town-owned property that allows public access to Town Cove.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

320 STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This small 1-story wood frame bungalow is virtually intact, though in very poor condition. Its gable roof appears to be sound, but some of the weathered wood shingle siding is falling off and it has several broken or missing windows leaving it open to the elements. A nearly full front porch, which is quite deep, has a shed roof that begins part way up the front of the gable roof of the house and is missing some of the glazing above its kneewall. The three-bay front facade of the main house has paired windows flanking a center entrance. Side facades are also three bays, that on the right (northerly) side has a secondary entrance between two windows. The original windows that are still in place are six-over-one sash. There's a small interior brick chimney. There are no building permit records available for this property.

A small one-story boathouse (or barn) is located north of the dwelling and is in worse shape than the house. Some of its vertical wood siding is missing. The large entrance bay has lost any door it may once have had. There is no obvious access down to the bungalow from the roadway and the grass has grown up around the place to the extent that the property appears to have been abandoned.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The cottage now numbered 320 State Highway was built between 1926 and 1931 by Abbott H. Walker on land that later was owned by his eldest son Stanley Marston Walker. Abbott H. Walker (1864-1954) was the longtime captain of the United States Life-saving Service station at Nauset, and his family lived at what is now numbered 315 State Highway probably since the late 1830s. He was the son of John F. and Mary E. Walker and the grandson of John and Hannah Walker. The 1850 census lists John Walker as a farmer with \$270 in real property immediately following the Jabez Sparrow household (at 175 State Highway), along with his wife and children Sarah, John F., Absalom, and Mary. Son John F. Walker married Mary E. Eldridge of Chatham in 1863, and their son Abbott H. was born the next year. The 1880 census shows John F. Walker and his son Abbott, then fifteen, both working as fisherman and living at what was probably 315 State Highway. In 1887 Abbott H. Walker married Wellfleet domestic Lillie A. Wiley, and their son Stanley Marston Walker was born the same year in Wellfleet.

The 1900 census shows Abbott H. Walker as a surfman (lifeguard) renting in this South Eastham neighborhood and living with his wife Lillie and children Stanley, Sadie (Sarah), Olive, and Lawrence. Tax records for 1902 show him still without real property. In 1905 Walker was made captain of the Nauset life-saving station and four years later he bought two parcels bordering his father's property from his great-aunt Mary E. Flagg of Somerville. She was a daughter of John and Hannah Walker who had inherited the property in 1884 after her father died.¹ These parcels were across from each other on State Highway, a 1.5 acre parcel with a house and buildings on the west side and an apparently undeveloped four-acre parcel on the east. The 1910 census shows Walker owning a mortgaged property on State Highway; his occupation was listed as a keeper of the life-saving station. The Walkers' eldest son Stanley was living at home and working as a shellfisherman.

In July 1922 Abbott H. Walker sold his son Stanley a piece of land roughly 167 by 192 feet square on State Highway, bordering his own land on the east side of that road.² Tax records for 1926 show both Abbott H. and Stanley Walker with a house and acreage, but by 1931 records show that Abbott had built a cottage, almost certainly 320 State Highway. In 1955, after Abbott Walker's death, his children Sarah, Olive, and Howard (born in 1906) deeded their interest in the property of the east side of State Highway to their brother Stanley.³

Born in Eastham in 1887, Stanley Marston Walker was working as a shellfisherman and living in his parents' household in 1910 when he married Eastham native Edna M. Dill, the nineteen-year-old daughter of George T. and Lillie Moore Gill. By 1920 the couple was renting a house, their household being listed in the census that year preceding that of his father's on State Highway. By then Stanley Walker was also employed as a surfman at the life-saving station. By 1926 tax records show the couple had built their house at 410 State Highway on the land his father deeded to him in 1922. Stanley Walker then owned a house (valued at \$2875) and garage on one acre. The 1930 census again shows Stanley Walker's household immediately after his father's. He was then working as a chauffeur and owned \$4000 in real property; sharing the household was his wife Edna and daughter Winifred, then four years old. Tax records for 1931 show Stanley Walker with a house valued at \$3000, a garage, and a one-acre homestead lot; his father had a house, cottage (370 State Highway), and numerous other buildings on a seven-acre homestead lot, while his younger brother Howard F. Walker had a house and garage on a one-acre lot as well.

By 1940 Stanley Walker was renting "small vacation fishing boats" for a living, and he and his wife Edna had another child, Maynard, born about 1934. Tax records for 1947 show that he had built two cottages, apparently 360 and 370 State Highway, sometime between 1937 and 1947. Tax records for 1950 show Stanley Walker with two "summer cottages," as do records for 1954; Abbott Walker owned his house and one cottage, the latter being 320 State Highway.

¹ Mary E. Flagg, Somerville, to Abbott H. Walker, 31 August 1909, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 296:283.

² Abbott H. Walker to Stanley M. Walker, 15 July 1922, BCD 389:203. In another deed (Celia H. Crosby, Orleans, to Abbott H. Walker, 7 March 1925, BCD 410:335) Walker bought an interest in land in the same area that is part of the chain of title for 320 State Highway but not for 360 and 370 State Highway.

³ Sarah W. Taylor and Olive K. Gorham, both Orleans, and Howard F. Walker to Stanley M. Walker, 15 October 1955, BCD 923:32.

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In October 1955, after Abbott Walker's death, his children, Sarah, Olive, and Howard, sold their interest in the family property on the east side of State Highway to Stanley Walker. The parcel included the 320 State Highway cottage. Stanley Walker thus owned 320, 360, 370, and 410 State Highway until 1967, when he subdivided 320 from the other three properties and sold it and its garage with 1.2 acres to current owners Richard J. and Susan Comeau.⁴ They still own the property.

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MAPS

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

⁴ Sarah W. Taylor and Olive K. Gorham, both Orleans, and Howard F. Walker to Stanley M. Walker, 15 October 1955, BCD 923:32; Stanley M. Walker to Richard J. and Susan Comeau, Belmont, 15 August 1967, BCD 1375:11. See also "Plan of Land in Eastham, Mass. As Surveyed for Stanley M. Walker et ux," August 1967, BCP 213:63-2.

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EASTHAM

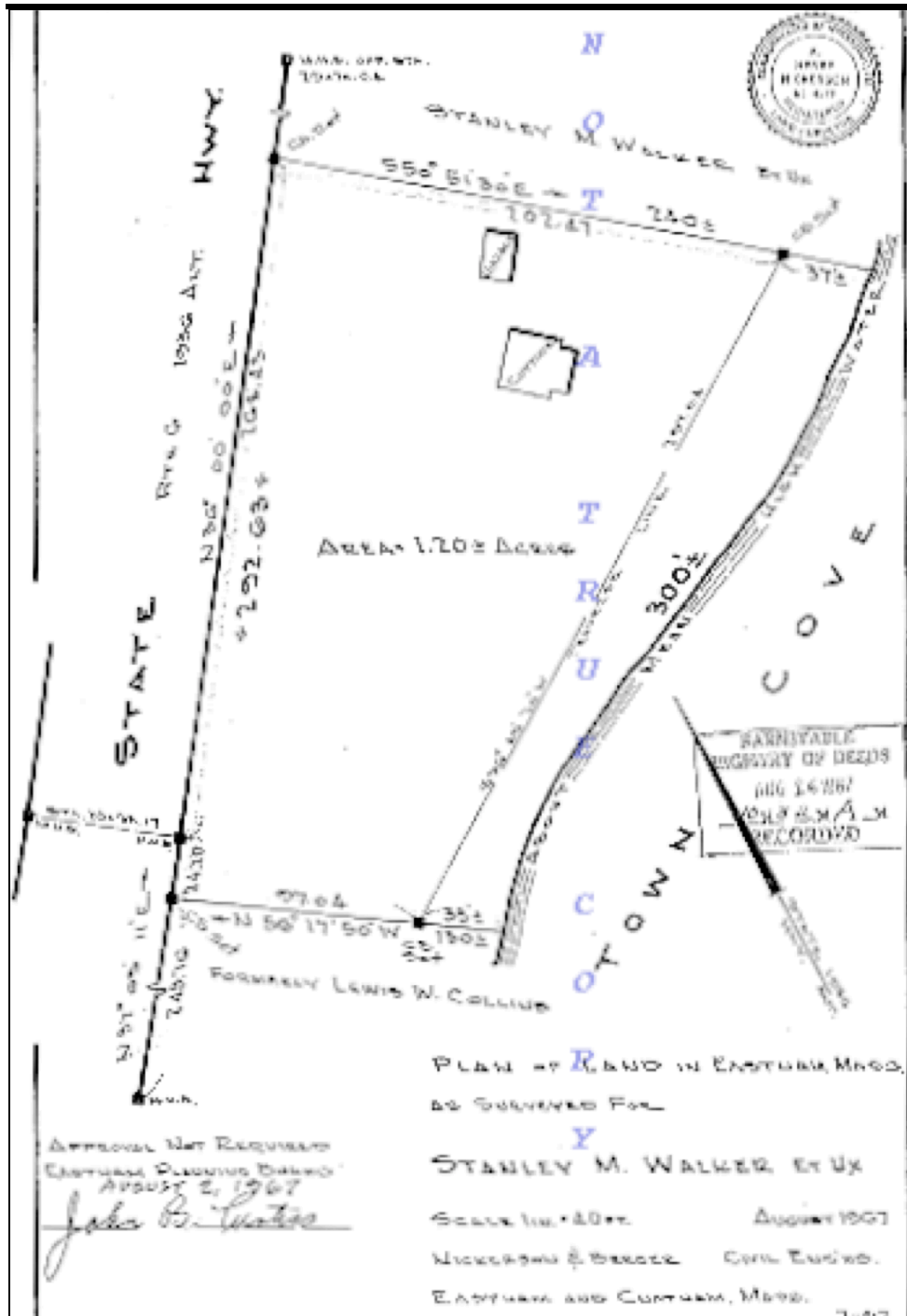
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Walker subdivision plan of 1967 (BCP 213:63-2) showing 320 State Highway.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View from northeast.



View from southeast.